



**SEMINOLE COUNTY TRAILS AND GREENWAYS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 27, 2005
Minutes**

Members in attendance:

Ken Holt
Roger Cooper
Dan Anderson
Al Stimac
Wally Hill
Rick Smith
Mike Martin
Tim Donihi
Judy Putz

Staff in attendance:

Mark Lichtenheld, Engineering
Jeff Hayes, Parks & Recreation
Cindy Matheny, Engineering
Heidi Terry, Engineering

Guests:

Lindy Moore, Florida Bicycle Association
Fran Meli, Longwood
Abby Shoemaker, Chair of City of Longwood Trails Advisory Board
Brian Sackett (as corrected)
JoAnne Rebello (as corrected)
Art Ackerman, Founding Member of Trails Advisory Committee

Mr. Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and asked the committee members and staff to introduce themselves.

Ms. Putz noted that Ms. Shoemaker and Mr. Sackett were present at the October meeting, although the minutes did not reflect this. The October minutes were approved as corrected.

NEW BUSINESS:

Related Reports:

BPAC:

Ms. Matheny reported that BPAC is planning events for May, which is National Trails Month. The events include a bicycle ride on the Seminole Wekiva Trail on May 21, 2005. Ms. Matheny added that staff involvement would be welcomed.

Ms. Matheny then reported that the newest member of BPAC is a 13 year old boy, who will take his seat in February, if approved by the MetroPlan Board.

Ms. Matheny then reported that the presentation for the Wekiva Parkway along SR 46 does not include bike lanes. BPAC will write a letter to FDOT about this issue and Ms. Matheny will keep the committee updated.

Natural Lands:

Mr. Lichtenheld informed the committee that the annual Air Potato Raid at Spring Hammock Preserve was a success. More than 250 people attended, gathering more than 1700 pounds of air potatoes.

Florida Natural Scenic Trail:

Mr. Hill reported that the "through"- trails are all cleared of hurricane debris at this point.

Bike Issues:

Mr. Donihi also reported on the Wekiva Parkway and the bike lane issues. Additionally he gave an update on the Seminole Trail Friends group.

Development Review Committee:

No report

Coordination/Planning:

Ms. Matheny reported that the prioritization plan, presented at the last meeting, was going to be presented to the BCC on February 8, 2005 during the morning session.

The Florida Trails Association will hold an open house in Gainesville. Please contact Ms. Matheny to get more information.

Ms. Matheny stated that the Saint Johns River Alliance has made headway in their plans to develop Blueways and Greenways along the Saint Johns River. They have recently hired a new executive director who will coordinate.

OGT/FDOT:

No report

Design and Construction:

Mr. Lichtenheld reported that construction of the three bridges on the Econlockhatchee River is completed.

The Overpass over S.R. 434 should be completed by the end of March 2005.

The North section of the Cross Seminole Trail is under construction now and parts of the South section should be under construction by Summer 2005. (For more detail, please go to www.seminolecountyfl.gov/trails/ and click on construction update).

Mr. Lichtenheld reported that the Kewannee Trail in Casselberry is under construction and should be completed by the end of this year.

He also reported that construction will begin this summer on the Cross Seminole Trail Connector east of 17/92 to north of Old Sanford Oviedo Road.

Mr. Holt asked what kind of surface material will be used on trail boardwalks and Ms. Matheny passed a piece of synthetic material, which has been selected for use on current projects. She stated that there was a 50 year guarantee attached and that the friction was higher when the material is wet as opposed to other surface materials.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of Mission Statement and Committee resolution:

Mr. Cooper stated that at past meetings there was discussion about the committee members getting involved in the design process earlier to avoid potential problems.

Mr. Holt stated that he were more interested in trail promotion and asked in what fashion members were enabled to do so.

Mr. Hill stated that he was satisfied with the Mission Statement and thought it was efficient the way it was.

Mr. Stimac added that he thought members were not qualified to edit design drawings.

Mr. Anderson agreed and stated that the Mission Statement already gives members authority for input. He added that the committee's purpose was to give user feedback to the Board of County Commissioners.

The committee voted unanimously to leave the Mission Statement unchanged.

Trail Landfill Property:

Mr. Hill explained the issue on a map and reported that he, during his site visit, found no evidence of feasibility for the proposed equestrian trail in the landfill/hunt club area.

No more action will be taken by the committee on this issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

City of Longwood Resolution:

Mr. Cooper read aloud the response letter by Jerry McCollum, Seminole County Engineer, to the City of Longwood.

Mr. Lichtenheld added that the information that is mentioned as going before the BCC is the priority matrix shown at the last committee meeting.

Mr. Cooper summarized that the matrix will go to the BCC for approval and if there is any funding left over at that time could go to the City of Longwood's Candyland Trail.

Ms. Putz had questions concerning the funding of the connector from SR 46 to the Riverwalk in Sanford and the E.E. Williamson overpass. Mr. Lichtenheld responded by saying that those projects were also not part of the referendum funding. These funds are from the S/W referendum (?).

Ms. Putz then asked how the Candyland Trail could be moved to the priority list of non-funded projects. Ms. Matheny said that there are other funding opportunities (i.e. MetroPlan, grants, etc.), which could be discussed. Mr. Lichtenheld added that the right-of-way acquisition was the costliest part of the construction process. Mr. Anderson stated that the City of Longwood is the only city in Seminole County without a trail at this point. He acknowledged some procrastination on the City's part. He also said that the City would try to coordinate with other departments in order to set aside room for trails on road projects in the future.

Trail Linkages:

Ms. Matheny made reference to an e-mail received by committee member Ken Holt and mentioned that his concerns were mainly related to the Parks and Recreation Department and trails maintenance. Mr. Holt had questions about the connection of the Seminole Wekiva Trail to Sylvan Lake Park. Ms. Matheny said she would speak with the Sidewalk Section to get an answer. Mr. Hayes stated that there was a present connection to the south-west corner of the park, but did not know why there was not a sidewalk at the main entrance.

Mr. Holt also stated that Seminole County was in need of a rollerblading/kayaking recreational facility.

Mr. Holt also stated that some of the mile markers on the Trail had been vandalized or taken and that directional signs and maps are needed on the individual trails. Mr. Hayes stated that the Parks and Recreation Department had identified the need signs in specific areas (i.e. Lake Mary Boulevard, SR 434, and eventually for the I-4 Pedestrian Overpass). Vandals, however, pose a problem and the department is looking into more durable materials. Mr. Smith added that Seminole County could look in to spraying the mileage directly on the pavement to avoid vandalism.

Mr. Hayes said that a program to deal with “trash trees” and other invasive species along the trails has been started.

Mr. Holt stated that the trails are clean and thanked Mr. Hayes.

Mr. Stimac asked how damaged areas are marked by the Parks and Recreation Department and Mr. Hayes answered that these spots are marked with orange paint. Mr. Smith noted that there were some washout spots on the Cross Seminole Trail near Tuskavilla that needed to be addressed.

Mr. Ackerman wanted to know when the Cross Seminole Trails construction will be completed and Mr. Lichtenheld said that there is no definite date as of yet. Mr. Ackerman then wanted to know what homeowners could do to help keep unauthorized trail users off of trails which are under construction. Mr. Lichtenheld said that the best course of action is to call the local police or the Seminole County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Cooper reminded everyone that elections for Chair and Vice-Chair will take place at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 24, 2005, at 7 p.m. in Room 3024, County Services Building, 1101 East First Street, Sanford, FL 32771.